

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 282350Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2270

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ARENALES' REMARKS TO PRESS ON
TLATELOLOCO CONFERENCE

1. ON FEBRUARY 26, GOG FONMIN JORGE ARENALES BRIEFED
PRESS ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TLATELOLOCO CONFERENCE.
HE DESCRIBED IT IN HIGHLY FAVORABLE TERMS AS THE
BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS
OF COMPLETE EQUALITY WITHOUT "SUBMISSION OR PATERNALISM."
LATIN FONMINS WERE ABLE TO PRESENT THEIR OPINIONS,
WHICH, IN TURN, WERE RECEIVED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER
WITH "AN OPEN MIND AND DESIRE FOR COOPERATION."
ARENALES GAVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS TO WHAT HE CALLED THE
"ESTABLISHMENT OF A BASIS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
MEASURES WHICH HAVE CAUSED DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN
THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA, SUCH AS ECONOMIC
PRESSURE AND THE
INTERVENTION OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS INTO INTERNAL
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AFFAIRS OF THE CONTINENT'S NATIONS." ARENALES

ALSO REGARDED "DECISION OF U.S. TO PREFERENTIALLY AID SMALL COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC INTERESTS" AS A CONFERENCE SUCCESS. ARENALES SAID THAT SOME PROPOSALS MADE BY LATINS AT CONFERENCE WERE NOT RESOLVED SINCE THEY DID NOT FALL UNDER AUTHORITY OF STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT RATHER U.S. CONGRESS. HE ADDED THAT RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES WILL BE MADE AT ATLANTA FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING.

2. IN ADDITION TO THESE ISSUES, ARENALES EMPHASIZED TO PRESS THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PANAMA, HAD COORDINATED POSITIONS BOTH FOR TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE AND BEFORE PRELIMINARY MEETING IN BOGOTA. GUATEMALA HAD WORKED, HE SAID, TO GET CONFERENCE VICE-PRESIDENCIES FOR CA FONMIN AT BOTH MEETINGS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ARENALES ALSO COMMENTED THAT TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE HAD "RECOMMENDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND PANAMA OVER PANAMA CANAL NOT BE INTERRUPTED."

3. IN A FEBRUARY 28 CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, ARENALES REPEATED MUCH OF WHAT HE HAD SAID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, EMPHASIZING HIS POSITIVE VIEW OF THE TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE AND HIS VERY FAVORABLE OPINION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEETING. ARENALES ADDED THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE AMBASSADOR TO MAKE ATLANTA MEETING A SUCCESS.

4. FONMIN ARENALES ALSO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE PLANS TO ENCOURAGE MEETINGS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS PREPARATORY TO THE ATLANTA MEETING AND THAT HE HOPES TO INCLUDE PANAMA. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW PANAMA MORE CLOSELY INTO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ORBIT, AND THUS DECREASE THE "UNFAVORABLE" INFLUENCE OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS PERU. HE THOUGHT THE POSSIBILITY OF DOING THIS HAD BEEN GREATLY INCREASED NOW THAT THE U.S. AND PANAMA HAD BEGUN CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

5. COMMENT: ARENALES PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS ON TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE INDICATE THAT HE DOES INDEED CONSIDER IT TO HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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A MOST CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING.
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